National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Decreased impacts of the 2003 heat waves on mortality in the Czech Republic: An improved response?

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Abstract:

The paper examines impacts on mortality of heat waves in 2003, the hottest summer on record in the Czech Republic, and compares them with previous similar events. While most summer heat waves over the period since 1986 were associated with significantly elevated mortality, this was not the case for three out of the four heat waves in 2003. The relatively weak mortality response was particularly noteworthy for the most severe heat wave which occurred in the first 10 days of August 2003 and resulted in enormous excess mortality in some western European countries. A mortality displacement effect and short-term adaptation to heat contributed to the reduced mortality impacts of the heat waves that followed after previous relatively warm periods. However, the decreased mortality response of the 2003 heat waves compared to previous heat waves in the 1990s is also likely to have arisen from positive health-care and other socio-economic changes in the post-communist central European region over the past decade, as well as a better public awareness of heat-related risks due to enhanced media coverage and regular biometeorological forecast and warnings.

Source: http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00484-008-0166-3

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Temperature

Temperature: Extreme Heat

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Europe

European Region/Country: European Country

Other European Country : Czech Republic

Health Impact: ☑

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Morbidity/Mortality

Cardiovascular Effect: Other Cardiovascular Effect

Cardiovascular Disease (other): cardiovascular mortality

Mitigation/Adaptation: ☑

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: ☑

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status

Other Vulnerable Population: women

Resource Type: ☑

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Resilience: ☑

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale: ☑

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: ☑

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content